



## 1. Application details

### 1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 633/1

Permit type: Area Permit

### 1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: Shire of Broome

### 1.3. Property details

Property:

Local Government Area: Shire Of Broome

Colloquial name: Gubinge Road Reserve

### 1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
1.82		Mechanical Removal	Road construction or maintenance

## 2. Site Information

### 2.1. Existing environment and information

#### 2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description	Clearing Description	Vegetation Condition	Comment
Vegetation of the area is Beard Vegetation Association #750: Shrublands, pindan; Acacia tumida shrubland with grey box & cabbage gum medium woodland over ribbon grass and curly spinifex (Hopkins et al. 2001).	Acacia coleii Tall open scrub (to 3m in height) with scattered Corymbia dampieri trees over Triodia epactia hummock grassland (80% cover) (ATA Environmental, 2004).	Good: Structure significantly altered by multiple disturbance; retains basic structure/ability to regenerate (Keighery 1994)	Site survey by ATA Environmental (2004) directly adjacent for subdivision
Vegetation of the area is Beard Vegetation Association #750: Shrublands, pindan; Acacia tumida shrubland with grey box & cabbage gum medium woodland over ribbon grass and curly spinifex (Hopkins et al. 2001).	Corymbia dampieri low open woodland (to 5m in height) over Grevillea pyramidalis, Acacia coleii and Bauhinia cunninghamii open shrubland (to 2m in height) over Triodia pungens hummock grassland (ATA Environmental, 2004).	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Site survey by ATA Environmental (2004) directly adjacent for subdivision.
Vegetation of the area is Beard Vegetation Association #750: Shrublands, pindan; Acacia tumida shrubland with grey box & cabbage gum medium woodland over ribbon grass and curly spinifex (Hopkins et al. 2001).	Corymbia dampieri low open woodland over Grevillea pyramidalis, Bauhinia cunninghamii and Acacia eriopoda shrubland (to 2m in height) with scattered Ventilago viminalis and Acacia coleii shrubs over Triodia epactia and Triodia pungens dominated hummock grassland (ATA Environmental, 2004).	Very Good: Vegetation structure altered; obvious signs of disturbance (Keighery 1994)	Site survey by ATA Environmental (2004) directly adjacent for subdivision

## 3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

### (a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

#### Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle

A survey of vegetation carried out directly adjoining the strip of land proposed for clearing and found the vascular plant diversity to be similar to other surveys carried out in the local area. The biodiversity was considered equal to other relatively uniform local Pindan vegetation communities (ATA Environmental, 2004). In the narrower northern part of the area some patches of weed (Buffel grass) have established in disturbed

areas (Site visit, 2005).

**Methodology** Broome Residential Subdivision Flora and Vegetation Survey, ATA Environmental (2004)  
Site Visit, DoE Officer (2005)

**(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The area proposed for clearing is a small, elongate area adjacent to an existing gravel road and therefore is unlikely to represent a significant habitat for fauna.

**Methodology** Site visit, DoE Officer 2005

**(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, significant flora.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

There are no known Declared Rare flora recorded at, or within 3km of this site.

**Methodology** GIS Database:  
Declared Rare and Priority Flora List - CALM 13/08/03

**(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a significant ecological community.**

**Comments Proposal may be at variance to this Principle**

There is a declared Threatened Ecological Community (TEC) located approximately 400m from the proposed site of clearing. The TEC is identified as a 'vine thicket community' and are vulnerable to altered hydrological flows and weed invasion from increased urban development (including clearing nearby) (CALM, pers comm., 2005; Black et al, in press). It is recommended that the clearing be carried out with appropriate procedures in place to minimise the off-site impacts on the proximal TEC vine thicket.

**Methodology** GIS Database: Threatened Ecological Communities - CALM 12/4/05  
Personal Communication via email, CALM 2005  
Black S.J., Willing T., and Dureau D.M. (in Press)

**(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.**

**Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation of the site is Beards Vegetation Association 750 (Hopkins et al. 2001) of which there is ~99% of the Pre-European extent remaining (Shepherd et al. 2001).

**Methodology** GIS Database: Pre-European Vegetation - DA 01/01  
Shepherd et al. (2001)  
Hopkins et al. (2001)

**(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.**

**Comments Proposal is not at variance to this Principle**

The vegetation proposed for clearing is not associated with a watercourse or wetland.

**Methodology** GIS Database: Hydrography, linear - DOE 1/2/04  
Site visit, DoE Officer 2005

**(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The area proposed for clearing is small and is adjacent to an already disturbed roadside so clearing at this site is unlikely to cause any appreciable land degradation (Site visit, 2005).

**Methodology** Site visit, DoE Officer (2005)

**(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The area for clearing is adjacent to the Aboriginal managed Minyirr Coastal Park. The proponent has been actively involved in consultation with the Rubibi people throughout the planning process and the clearing has been discussed (pers. comm. Broome Shire, 2005). The managers of the Minyirr Coastal Park have been consulted and have been involved in developing management actions for the disturbance of this area (pers comm, Minyirr Coastal Park Manager, 2005).

**Methodology** Site visit, DoE Officer, 2005  
Broome Shire (2005)  
Minyirr Coastal Park (2005)

**(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.**

**Comments Proposal is not likely to be at variance to this Principle**

The size of the area for clearing is small (1.82ha) and drainage associated with this proposal will be carefully managed so this is not likely to cause any appreciable deterioration in water quality (Broome Shire, pers. comm., 2005).

**Methodology** Site visit, DoE Officer (2005)  
Broome Shire (2005)

**(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence of flooding.**

**Comments Proposal may be at variance to this Principle**

There are large seasonal flood events in this region and clearing a small amount of vegetation is unlikely to alter this flood regime. However, drainage issues have been carefully considered in this project to avoid changes to the existing hydrology to ensure the adjacent TEC vine thicket is not impacted (pers. comm. Broome Shire, 2005).

**Methodology** Broome Shire (2005)  
Site visit, DoE Officer (2005)

**Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.**

**Comments**

A submission was received stating that the clearing might constitute a 'future act' under the Native Title Act. The applicant has relevant permissions (ie: a Taking Order from DPI for the UCL parcel) to carry out the proposed activity and the local Rubibi people have been involved in the process of developing the project so the clearing would not constitute a 'future act' (pers comm. Kimberley Land Council and Minyirr Park Coastal Park, 2005). The EPA has issued advice under Section 48 of the Environmental Protection Act in relation to the further development of this area referring specifically to protection of the TEC vine thicket by drainage management (EPA Advice, 2002). This matter is to be considered when clearing native vegetation.

**Methodology** Kimberley Land Council (2005)  
Minyirr Coastal Park managers (2005)  
EPA Advice (2002) CRN179912 (KNI879)

**4. Assessor's recommendations**

Purpose	Method	Applied area (ha)/ trees	Decision	Comment / recommendation
Road construction or maintenance	Mechanical Removal	1.82	Grant	Assessable criteria have been addressed and submissions addressed. The Assessing Officer therefore recommends that the permit should be granted. Due to the close proximity of the adjacent TEC (vine thicket) it is recommended that any potential increased drainage and run-off resulting from the clearing process be carefully managed to avoid altering the hydrological regime of the TEC.

**5. References**

ATA Environmental Flora and Vegetation Survey (2004)  
Black, S.J., Willing, T. and Dureau, D.M. (in Press)  
Broome Shire, personal communication (2005)  
CALM Personal Communication via email (2005)  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment (2002) Biodiversity Action Planning. Action planning for native biodiversity at multiple scales ; catchment bioregional, landscape, local. Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria.

Keighery, BJ (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.  
Kimberley Land Council, personal communication (2005)  
Minyirr Coastal Park personal communication (2005)  
Shepherd, D.P., Beeston, G.R. and Hopkins, A.J.M. (2001) Native Vegetation in Western Australia, Extent, Type and Status. Resource Management Technical Report 249. Department of Agriculture, Western Australia.

## 6. Glossary

Term	Meaning
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management
DAWA	Department of Agriculture
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection (now DoE)
DoE	Department of Environment
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources
DRF	Declared Rare Flora
EPP	Environmental Protection Policy
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
TEC	Threatened Ecological Community
WRC	Water and Rivers Commission (now DoE)